

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 005
DATE: April 16, 2001 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: In Nelson County, a woman was killed and two others were injured during a one-vehicle rollover on April 16 in the McHugh Slough area, northeast of Lakota. The three victims, who were wearing seatbelts, were trapped in 2.5 feet of water. Rescue workers were experiencing difficulties reaching the vehicle because of unsafe ice conditions. The accident victims were taken to a Grand Forks hospital.
3. DAMAGES: A Flood Warning remains in effect for the Red River of the North where levels at Wahpeton and Fargo continue a slow fall. However, forecasters with the National Weather Service (NWS) caution that river levels will remain high and, with additional precipitation forecasted for later this week, secondary rises are possible. The river at Wahpeton measured 15.3 feet today. Preliminary data indicates that highest value recorded to date was 16.96 feet on April 9; however, forecasters have not yet called an official crest level. The river at Fargo measured 35.8 feet today after cresting at 36.8 feet on April 14. The level at Grand Forks measured 44.4 feet after cresting at 44.8 feet on April 14. Meanwhile, river levels downstream of Grand Forks continue to rise. The river at Drayton measured 40.8 feet and was expected to crest near 41 feet on April 19-20. At Pembina, the river was at 46.7 feet with an expected crest of 49.5 to 50 feet on April 21-22.

A Flood Warning is in effect for the Pembina River based on forecasts calling for runoff north of the Canadian border to result in a second crest for Neche and Walhalla. The river at Walhalla measured 8.8 feet today; flood stage is 11 feet. The river will begin to rise above flood stage on April 21. At Neche, the river measured 17 feet; flood stage is 18 feet.

In Cass County, officials have reported damages to culverts and ditches in the Harwood and Argusville areas.

State Highways closed to traffic include: N.D. Highway 66 at mile marker 138 to the Red River; N.D. Highway 5 at mile marker 335 to the Red River; U.S. Highway 81 between Columbia and Bacon Roads in Grand Forks; and N.D. Highway 11 at Fairmount to the Red River. The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported highways with water on the roadways and where traffic is allowed include: N.D. Highway 54, from I-29 to Oslo; N.D. Highway 14 at mile marker 69; and N.D. Highway 11 at mile markers 181 to 182. DOT officials anticipate that

floodwaters may inundate N.D. Highway 3 at mile marker 132 this week. N.D. Highway 36 at mile marker 34 may also be under water within the next three days.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Cass County Emergency Vehicle Assistance Communication (EVAC) assessed the needs of people living along County Highway 17, north of County Highway 10 to the city of Harwood.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Joe M. Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was scheduled on April 16-17 to tour flood-impacted areas in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. In North Dakota, Mr. Allbaugh planned to meet with tribal and local officials in the Devils Lake area and the Red River communities of Grand Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton. Those accompanying Mr. Allbaugh include: Governor Hoeven, the Adjutant General, North Dakota's congressional delegation, the Director of N.D. Department of Transportation, the Director of the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management, the Interim Engineer for the State Water Commission and representatives of FEMA's Washington D.C. and Region VIII offices. The Governor's Office and the North Dakota National Guard helped organize the tour. The National Guard is providing aerial and ground reconnaissance support.

Along the Red River Valley, the National Guard continues to patrol dikes to monitor their integrity. National Guard officials pre-positioned boats in the eastern part of the state for potential evacuation. As of April 15, 63 guardsmen were on state active duty (SAD). On April 14, there were 130 on SAD. Equipment in use by guardsmen includes dump trucks, tractor-trailers, vans, HMMWVs and pickup trucks.

In Cass County, two rescues took place of stranded residents from two homes located east of Argusville, near where the Sheyenne River joins the Red River of the North. The Cass County Sheriff's Reserve Water Rescue, the Argusville Volunteer Fire Department and the Wilcon County Fire and Rescue in Breckenridge assisted with the rescue of stranded residents.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported that its levee construction has been completed for the cities of Wahpeton, Fargo and Grand Forks. Levees at Wahpeton were built to 22 feet, and at Fargo to 40 feet. USACE engineers are providing technical assistance with seepage problems in Fargo. Top-of-levee in Grand Forks measures 52 feet. Contractors will have three truckloads of clay and one truckload of sandbags to respond to potential problems. In Pembina, levee construction was scheduled for completion on April 14.

The Cass County Highway Department continues 24-hour operations with assistance from the County Sheriff's Office and the County Jail. Cass County Social Services is completing an assessment of cities to determine if any families have been displaced by floodwaters. Social Services staff also asked city officials

about the current status of water problems and how many homes and businesses are at risk. Assistance requests were referred to appropriate county agencies.

The Fargo City Engineer's Office continues 24-hour operations at its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). City workers from various offices have been staffing phones, and public works crews have been checking dikes, pumps/lift stations and other potential problems in the city's flood control areas. The city building/electrical inspection office has had a staff member on duty at all times.

In Grand Forks, shaping and recompacting of dikes continues in the Gateway and Olson Drive areas. Borrow pits in Central Park and Lincoln Drive have been vacated and trimmed up.

In Drayton, a small hole that developed in the dike was repaired on April 14 by workers.

A Walsh County man whose rural home is threatened by floodwaters was transported by the Sheriff's Office to a Hillsboro hospital.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: The Governor's Office, the Adjutant General, DEM, State Water Commission, N.D. DOT, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Geological Survey, USACE and National Guard officials have been on-site in several areas.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director